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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

The Real Colonel House. By Arthur D. Howden Smith. Doran, New York. 1918. 8vo. 306 pp.

The author qualifies this title by a prefatory note in which he says, "This is an intimate biography only in the sense that it reflects my own interpretation of Colonel House based upon an acquaintance and friendship of several years. It is in no sense official for I have not sought access to confidential papers nor have I asked for undue confidence from Colonel House."

In the first seventy pages the author sketches the life of Mr. House to the year 1910, and his chief purpose is to show the dominant influence attained and exercised by Mr. House in Texas politics. The period from 1890 to 1910 was marked by rapid changes and radical tendencies in Texas politics. It is scarcely necessary to point out that the author has confined himself to very general statements.

The greater portion of the book deals with the part played by Mr. House more recently in national politics and the international negotiations of the United States. The campaigns of 1912 and 1916, and the several missions of Mr. House abroad as the representative of the President are described in popular, journalistic style, laudatory in the extreme and supplying the reader little material for a careful judgment.

E. W. W.

Watching and Waiting on the Border. By Roger Batchelder. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 1917. 12mo. 221 pp.

Mr. Batchelder was a private in a machine-gun company, Eighth Massachusetts Regiment, National Guard. He tells of the unexpected calling out of the National Guard in June, 1916, of the inadequacy of equipment and lack of training, of the trip to Camp Cotton near El Paso, and of the life at that place by men unused and unprepared for the heat of that region. After spending four months in camp, the Massachusetts men were sent home. The writer hopes that this narrative will impress the reader with the weaknesses of the National Guard as a system of national defense.

E. W. W.